



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yashar Aliyev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the United Nations
at the Security Council open debate on “Peacebuilding and sustaining peace. The role of
reconciliation in maintaining international peace and security”**

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Consistent position of Azerbaijan with regard to the topic under consideration has been stated on numerous occasions, including in the Security Council. This position stems from the experience of facing continued armed aggression and ethnic cleansing and from my country’s keen interest in contributing to the achievement of sustainable peace in our region and worldwide.

Unlawful use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of States, increased brutality of armed conflicts, growing terrorist and separatist threats, the highest level of forced displacement, racism, intolerance and discrimination on ethnic and religious grounds continue to represent the most serious challenges to peace, security and sustainable development.

In their twin resolutions on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (A/RES/70/262 and S/RES/2282 (2016)), the General Assembly and Security Council have emphasized the importance of reconciliation and stressed the need for joint work of Member States to sustain peace at all stages of conflict and in all its dimensions.

In a number of situations, dedicated efforts have helped move peace and reconciliation processes forward. At the same time, more concerted actions and synergy, along with closer strategic and operational partnership between the United Nations and Governments, are required to end the conflicts of today and direct greater attention to preventing the conflicts of tomorrow.

First and foremost, it is critical to ensure that peace efforts, including reconciliation processes, and conflict settlement frameworks are not used as a tool to consolidate the situations achieved by the unlawful use of force and other egregious violations of general international law.

Justice is fundamental building block of sustainable peace. It is essential to address conflict-related violations by all available means and such efforts must be free of selectivity and politically motivated objectives.

Unfortunately, in some situations of armed conflict, including those of a protracted nature, accountability has not received proper attention and perpetrators not only continue to enjoy impunity for the most serious crimes but are ostentatiously glorified at the State and society levels.

Accountability for such crimes is essential not only for the purpose of bringing those responsible to justice, but also for ensuring sustainability of conflict resolution, truth, reconciliation, the rights and interests of victims and the well-being of society at large.

Intercultural and interreligious dialogue at the national and international levels is one of the important avenues within the broader objectives of peacebuilding, sustaining peace and reconciliation. Azerbaijan is keen to continue its efforts towards promoting mutual understanding and respect for diversity, including through the Baku Process and the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, which since their inception have received wide global recognition.

Continued support by the United Nations for successful initiatives of this kind on the culture of peace and multiculturalism is essential in the context of building relationships, overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions and implementing development frameworks and policies.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that the United Nations plays a central role in ensuring the uniform application of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the Organization. Support for that role of the United Nations and for safeguarding its collective security, political and humanitarian mechanisms is crucial in addressing conflicts and achieving the goals of peace, inclusive sustainable development and human rights for all.

Thank you.